



April 2022

Long-Term Care Facility Task Force Monthly Updates

In this Newsletter:

- [Change in Negative Result COVID Reporting](#)
 - [LTC Data](#)
 - [Pharmacy Therapeutics Update](#)
 - [Pharmacy Vaccine Updates](#)
 - [Tests Recalled](#)
 - [CMS Document Updates](#)
 - [Department of Labor and Industry \(DOLI\) Update](#)
 - [Recent CDC National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\) Resources for Nursing Homes](#)
 - [Project First Line Watch Party](#)
 - [VDH Team Contact Information](#)
-

Change in Negative Result COVID-19 Reporting

- A [variance to the Disease Reporting and Control Regulations](#) became effective on April 4, 2022 to **exempt Virginia physicians, laboratories, and directors of medical facilities from reporting negative or inconclusive SARS-CoV-2 antigen test results and all SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing results.**
 - See the [VDH Clinician Letter 4/5/2022](#) for more information.
- Results that entities should **continue to report:**
 - **All (positive, negative, and inconclusive) Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT)**
 - **All POSITIVE antigen tests**
- Non-required test options were disabled from the VDH point of care portal as of close of business 4/5/2022
- Note: VDH is still awaiting revised CMS guidance
- Future plans include updating the [LTC Task Force website](#) and revising [LTC reporting requirements document](#) (last revised 3/7/2022) to reflect these changes

LTC Data

- There were 18 LTCF COVID-19 outbreaks reported in the past 30 days: 1 in Eastern, 4 in Central, 8 in Northwest, 3 in Northern, and 2 in Southwest
- The number of reported staff and resident cases in nursing homes continued to decline during the most recent reporting week
 - For the reporting week ending March 27, 2022, 24 resident and 20 staff cases were reported to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
- For reporting week ending March 20, 2022, data reported by 278 nursing homes showed 89% of residents were fully vaccinated; data reported by 211 nursing homes showed 95% of staff were fully vaccinated
 - Of the nursing home residents eligible to receive an additional dose or booster, 79% of residents have received an additional dose or booster of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Of the nursing home healthcare personnel eligible to receive an additional dose or booster, 41% of staff have received an additional dose or booster of COVID-19 vaccine.

Pharmacy Therapeutics Update

- The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that the COVID-19 therapeutic, Sotrovimab, has limited effectiveness against the Omicron BA.2 subvariant; new data may be found in the [healthcare provider fact sheet](#).
- **Update 4/5/2022: Sotrovimab is no longer authorized to treat COVID-19 in any U.S. region due to increases in the proportion of COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant**
 - You may find more information about the FDA updates on Sotrovimab usage [here](#).

Pharmacy Vaccine Updates

- Updated LTCF Toolkit
 - The *Toolkit for Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) to Sustain COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Access* has been updated and now includes information on current COVID-19 therapeutics recommendations. The updated toolkit may be accessed through the [VDH website](#).
 - The toolkit includes: COVID-19 vaccine recommendations, approved or authorized COVID-19 treatment, LTCF guidance for COVID-19 therapeutics access, local health district (LHD) point of contact directory
- CDC LTCFs Vaccine Assistance Requests in Tiberius
 - Due to low demand of requests received since January 2022, the CDC is deactivating the LTCF vaccine assistance/request function from Tiberius. The CDC will continue to offer LTCFs with COVID-19 vaccine support, however, requests will no longer be submitted through the Tiberius tool.
 - Jurisdictions may continue to access data such as, current open requests and completed clinics, on the [LTC vaccine access page](#).
 - For more information and questions, LTCFs, Jurisdictions, and other organizations may directly contact the CDC team:
 - 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), TTY: 888-232-6348
 - <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/dcs/contactus/form>
 - Monday - Friday (8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET)

Tests Recalled

- On February 28, 2022, Celltrion USA sent letters to some affected distributors and customers with the following instructions:
 - Discontinue use
 - Return all unused product
 - Complete and return Acknowledgement and Receipt Form
- [Certain Celltrion DiaTrust COVID-19 Ag Rapid Tests by Celltrion USA: Class I Recall - Due to False Positive Test Results and Unauthorized Shelf Life](#) - Celltrion USA is recalling specific lots of the DiaTrust COVID-19 Ag Rapid Test due to a high number of false positive reports. Additionally, the tests' labeling for the affected products includes a shelf life of 18 months. However, the FDA's emergency use authorization specifies these tests may only be used for 12 months. For more information about this recall, refer to the [announcement](#).

CMS Document Updates

- [Facility testing requirements](#) for nursing homes (3/10/2022)
 - Replaced the term "vaccinated" with "Up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses" and deleted the term "unvaccinated."
 - Updated the recommendations for testing individuals within 90 days after recovering from COVID-19.
- [Nursing home visitation](#) (3/10/2022)
 - Replaced the term "vaccinated" with "up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses" and deleted "unvaccinated."
 - Updated visitor screening and quarantine criteria.
- [Visitation FAQs](#) also revised 3/10/2022

Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) Update

- Effective March 23, 2022, the Virginia Standard for Infectious Disease Prevention of the SARS-CoV-2 Virus That Causes COVID-19 ("Virginia Standard"), 16VAC25-220, is no longer in effect.
 - Employers are no longer required to report employee cases of COVID-19 to DOLI.
- The DOLI Guidance Document on COVID-19 entitled: [Guidance for Employers to Mitigate the Risk of COVID-19 to Workers](#) was published in the Virginia Register on March 28, 2022 (Volume 38: Issue 16) for a 30-day comment period in accordance with Va. Code § 2.2-4002.1.B.
 - The public comment forum ends on April 27, 2022.
- Note that despite the DOLI standard being revoked, the following reporting requirements remain in effect:
 - Nursing home requirements to report COVID-19 data to the National Healthcare Safety Network
 - Nursing home, assisted living facilities, and any other residential or day program, service or facility licensed or operated by any agency of the Commonwealth must continue to report suspected or confirmed outbreaks (of any pathogen) to the Virginia Department of Health (see <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/epidemiology-fact-sheets/outbreak-reporting/> for more information)
 - Outbreaks may be reported by using the [Suspected Outbreak Reporting Portal](#) or by contacting the [local health department](#).

Recent CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Resources for Nursing Homes

- CDC recently held a webinar to review the new (optional) NHSN Event-Level COVID-19 Vaccination Form. This tool can be used to report data to the main weekly Healthcare Personnel and Resident COVID-19 Vaccination Modules. Webinar [slides](#) and a [quick reference guide](#) are available on the CDC website.
- CDC also updated the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 Point of Care Test Result Reporting Tool [frequently asked questions](#) document.

Project First Line Watch Party

The VDH HAI/AR Program is conducting multiple Project Firstline (PFL) Watch parties in the upcoming weeks!




PROJECT FIRSTLINE WATCH PARTY

JOIN THE VDH PROJECT FIRSTLINE(PFL) TEAM'S FIRST WATCH PARTY SERIES!

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDH is hosting 7 watch parties covering 15 infection control topics. • Participate in a livestream of PFL training content and discuss topics within a watch party group. • Participants will learn infection prevention principles.
Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All frontline healthcare workers! Infection prevention & control expertise is not required.
Speaker	<p>Travis Bass, MA Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Program Virginia Department of Health (VDH)</p>
Date & Registration	<p>March - May 2022 Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:00 PM Visit the VDH HAI/AR Program website for registration information</p>

WE ARE PROJECT FIRSTLINE






Session 1: Introduction to Infection Control and Virus Basics

- Date: April 7, 2022 1-1:30 PM EST
[Register for Session 1 PFL webinar!](#)

Session 3: PPE Basics

- Date: April 21, 2022 1-1:30 PM EST
[Register for Session 3 PFL webinar!](#)

Session 2: Injection Safety

- Date: April 14, 2022 1-1:30 PM EST
[Register for Session 2 PFL webinar!](#)

Session 4: Respirator Basics

- Date: April 28, 2022 1-1:30 PM EST
[Register for Session 4 PFL webinar!](#)

VDH Team Contact Information

- Testing: testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov
- Vaccination: covidpharmacysupport@vdh.virginia.gov
- Therapeutics: covid19therapeutics@vdh.virginia.gov
- Infection Prevention and Control: hai@vdh.virginia.gov

Have any important updates or information for the Virginia Department of Health's Long-Term Care Task Force? Email to Kyle Nickel
(kyle.nickel@vdh.virginia.gov)